



U.S. Department of Justice

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OPERATION STREETSWEEPER

TWO MANCHESTER MEN SENTENCED FOR COCAINE DISTRIBUTION

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka announced that Willie **Couzzort**, 36, of Manchester, NH and Vincent **Cote**, 40, of 289 Concord Street, Manchester, NH were sentenced in U.S. District Court today.

Couzzort was sentenced in connection with the distribution of cocaine in Manchester, in March of 2001. Couzzort admitted his guilt during a hearing before U. S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr on February 11 of this year. Couzzort was sentenced to a period of 18 months incarceration. After his release from prison he will serve a 3 year period of supervised release monitored by the U.S. Probation Office. and three years of supervised release to follow.

Cote was sentenced on charges of possession of a controlled substance and using a communication facility in the commission of a felony. Cote was arrested in December 2002, after an ongoing investigation revealed that he was in possession of crack cocaine. Cote was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for possession of a controlled substance and 4 years imprisonment for using a communication facility in the commission of a felony. After his release from prison he will serve a one-year period of supervised release monitored by the U.S. Probation Office.

U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono stated, "The prosecution of this case and others like it represents the continuing efforts of local and state law enforcement, working jointly with the United States Attorney's Office, to eradicate cocaine from the streets of New Hampshire. "

The successful prosecution of this case resulted from the collaborative efforts of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force, the Manchester Police Department, and the U.S. Marshal's Service. These cases were prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Helen White Fitzgibbon.